40: Kirk--22-23 S-2 (no date) 1941 Formosans
116, 123, 626, 797, 177.79 Japanese

"Religion. Besides changing the language and social customs of the people, the Japanese wish to destroy the Taiwan religion and the local temples, and substitute in their place the Japanese torii, shrine, and the Shinto [23] ritual. This policy is well illustrated by a personal experience. During his stay in Formosa, the writer was closely guarded by the military police. One gendarme, and sometimes two, always accompanied the 'foreign suspect' on his visits to the Chinese and primitive settlements. Even in Taihoku, the principal city, a policeman in plain clothes was invariably on hand when the writer would appear in the morning, and this 'guard-of-honor' would not take his leave until the day's work was done. The 'foreigner' made a useful discovery very early in his Formosan career. Whenever a new 'guard' appeared, a visit to the nearest Shrine came first on the day's schedule. At once the whole attitude of the policeman toward his non-Japanese companion seemed to change from one suspicion to friendliness and he unconsciously became more or less an interested 'research assistant.' Unfortunately, the Japanese system seemed to call for a change of policemen as soon as one 'guard' showed signs of proving his worth as 'a social investigator.'

The residents of Formosa today, it appears, if they with to gain status in the eyes of public officials, may do well to forsake all other religions and follow the teachings of Shintoism."